transport and freight charges on export shipments of sugar with a view to promote export of sugar. In respect of releases of sugar for the months of July and August, 2002, such releases have been made on monthly basis. The impact of these measures is yet to be seen.

Misappropriation of PDS Commodities by Andhra Pradesh

2374. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG's recent report has indicted Andhra Pradesh for misappropriating PDS commodities allocated to the State for distribution amongst the poor through PDS;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. CAG's report No. 3 of 2000 on Public Distribution System has pointed out that PDS commodities worth Rs. 8.21 crores were misappropriated in the State of Andhra Pradesh, upto March, 1999.

Relevant extracts of the CAG's report were sent to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to investigate the matter and initiate suitable disciplinary action.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported that 15,639 cases were booked on account of illegal diversion of PDS items in Andhra Pradesh and 15,045 persons were arrested from 1992 to 1999.

Foodgrains to BPL Families

†2375 SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to provide foodgrains to the BPL families as per prescribed norms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether poorest among poor are not in a position to purchase foodgrains being distributed through Public Distribution System under the "Antyodaya Yojana" due to least purchasing power;

(d) the storage of foodgrains as on the 30th June, 2002; and

(e) the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of this storage capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) The Government of India is making allocation of foodgrains for BPL families (including Antyodaya families) under the Targeted Public Distribution System as per norms.

The Targeted Public Distribution System is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. Where as the Central Government is responsible for procuring, storing and transporting the PDS commodities upto the Central godowns and making them available to the State/Union Territories the actual distribution of these commodities through the network of fair price shops is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. The offtake of wheat and rice under BPL category (including Antyodaya) during 2001-2002 was 44.37 lakhs tonnes and 65.49 lakhs tonnes respectively as against 36.63 lakhs tones of wheat and 58.93 lakhs tones or rice during 2000-2001.

(c) The offtake of foodgarins under the Antyodaya anna yojana during 2001-2002 was 79.66% of the allocation in respect of rice and 65.73% of the allocation in respect of wheat.

(d) and (e) The total stocks of foodgrains in the Central pool (held by the FCI and State Agencies) as on 30th June, 2002 were as follows:

(*in lakh tonnes*)

Commodities	Stocks (Provisional)
Rice	219.37
Wheat	410.74
Coarse grains	0.36
TOTAL:	630.47

The estimated cost of maintaining the buffer and operational stocks of foodgrains held by the FCI during the year 2001-2002 was approximately Rs. 11139.46 crores.